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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
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Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending May 26, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes - New ceiling prices for potatoes, announced by OPA to be effective May 22, apply to new potatoes from only one of the Western Region States, namely, California. The prices named for this state are as follows: May 16 to 31, \$2.60 per cwt., June 1 to 15, \$2.40 and June 16 to 30, \$2.40. These ceilings, announced by OPA, do not apply to potatoes actually sold before the effective date of the new action nor to potatoes shipped from the country shipping point, sold or unsold, before the issuance date of the action.

The Kern County California new potato deal is now beginning to center around Shafter and Wasco. This area is slightly later than those from which potatoes have been shipped to date and it was not hit by the late frosts hence heavy shipments and heavier proportions of U.S. #1 grade may be expected. FOB shipping point prices for Kern County U.S. #1 potatoes in 100 lb. sacks have ranged from \$2.70 at the beginning of the week to \$2.60 today.

Onions - Shipments of onions out of Texas averaged 86 cars this week compared to the 181 cars last week. Total shipments from that state for this season now amount to 6,623 cars. The f.o.b. sales in the Coastal Bend District, on 50 lb. sacks of yellow Bermuda, were mostly \$1.00 to \$1.10.

New onions out of California by carlot totaled 67 ears this week. An equal number moved by truck to main markets within the state. Most of the California onions now going to market are Reds, and Yellow Globes.

Wholesale prices on western markets closed the week at a top of \$2.75 in the Northwest, for 50 lbs. sacks of Stockton Reds, and \$2.25 in California.

Tomatoes - Larger quantities of California and Texas tomatoes are now appearing on the Western Region Markets at prices averaging 25 cents to 50 cents per lug (up to a total of 18 cents per pound) higher than last week for California stock and as much less for Texas tomatoes. Mexican tomatoes are appearing in lesser quantities.

Cantaloups, apricots, blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries and youngberries - are now appearing in the markets, all in small trucked-in or express lots.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat - Reports from the northwest indicate that winter wheat is now heading in the earlier areas of Oregon but in general the grain crops are in need of rain. In other winter wheat areas prospects for a good crop are favorable, except in the low plains of Texas and parts of Southern Oklahoma. The general good new crop prospects appears to have encouraged country shippers to offer liberal supplies at ceiling prices especially in the principal midwestern markets. The wheat millfeed situation however has remained tight with western markets in the most serious condition.

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Soybeans - The growers support price for 1944 crop soybeans has been announced by WFA as \$2.04 per bushel (60 pounds) or 3.4 cents per lb. compared to \$1.80 per bushel or 3 cents per pound for the 1943 crop. The Soybean crop produced in 1943 was approximately 5 percent greater than in the previous year while the stocks on hand April 1944 were 5 cents less than on April 1, 1943.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Eggs - The shell egg purchase program has been revised to be effective May 26th, on the following basis: New cases: Current receipts $31\frac{1}{2}$ cents No. 3 and No. 4 Standards $32\frac{1}{2}$ cents, No. 1 and No. 2 standards $33\frac{1}{4}$; No. 1 and No. 2 Extras $34\frac{3}{4}$ cents; Procurement: IV 35 cents, III $35\frac{1}{2}$ cents, II 36 cents, I $36\frac{1}{2}$ cents. All prices f.o.b. delivery point with no freight differentials. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per dozen for purchases graded eggs only when offered in storage warehouses. Prices for used cases one cent less. Discount each pound of weight, below 45 pounds per case, $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per dozen. No consumer grades. No purchases to be made of eggs, below 40 pounds net. No premium for processing.

Egg container and storage space shortage are still major problems in the egg business. Housewives should continue to keep their home egg storage facilities filled to capacity, and for those who haven't yet stored eggs, as a safeguard against shortages later, now is a good time to start.

Butter - Production of butter has continued to increase due to more favorable weather and improved dairy pasture conditions. Dealers and retailers have built up small reserves due to the increased supplies and lack of increased consumer demand. The June set-aside of 50 percent, however, may result in the removal of the dealer and retailer reserves.

Livestock and Meats - WFA has announced amendment No. 15 to WFO 75, to be effective May 25th, removing all restrictions on farm slaughter of livestock and delivery of meat. "This action was taken to facilitate the movement of heavy supplies of livestock from farms into consumer channels."

Hogs - Market News reports that in the principal Markets "Hog marketing this week has been featured by the most serious congestion at several markets since midwinter." At the 12 principal markets there were received this week 480,000 salable hogs compared to 481,000, last week and 392,500 a year ago. The hog marketing committees are taking severe action on the various markets to prevent undue loss of hogs due to congested yards. They are now operating under embargo, quota and permit plans, all to keep hogs on the farm until after the holidays and until the present situation has eased up.

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